

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A foil-decorating injection molding apparatus comprising at least a male mold, a female mold, a transport chuck for feeding a decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold, and a clamper for pressing and fastening said sheet on a flat parting surface of said female mold, wherein:

said transport chuck comprises two clamping devices by which both side edges of said decorative sheet can be clamped; and

said clamper comprises a pushing frame that abuts on said parting surface of said female mold via said decorative sheet when said decorative sheet is pressed and fastened, and at least one connecting member connecting said pushing frame and means of driving said pushing frame, wherein:

said clamper is formed in such a shape that, when said pushing frame is in abutment with said parting surface of said female mold, there is established a space between said connecting member and said parting surface in which said clamping devices can pass through.

2. (original) The foil-decorating injection molding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transport chuck is movable in the direction perpendicular to the direction in which said male mold and said female mold are moved towards or away from each other, the position of said transport chuck is fixed with respect to said female mold in said direction, and said decorative sheet is fed from a reel fixed to said female mold.

3. (original) A foil-decorating injection molding method that employs the foil-decorating injection molding apparatus according to claim 1, said method comprising feeding said decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold by moving said clamping devices of said transport chuck with said decorative sheet being clamped by said clamping devices, pressing and fastening said sheet onto said parting surface by said clasper, releasing the grasping of said sheet by said clamping devices while maintaining the pressed state, and bringing said clamping devices back to their original position through the space between said clasper and said female mold.

4. (original) A foil-decorating injection molding method employing the foil-decorating injection molding apparatus according to claim 2, said method comprising: feeding said decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold by moving said clamping devices of said transport chuck with said sheet being clamped by said clamping devices; pressing and fastening said sheet onto said parting surface of said female mold by said clasper; releasing the grasping of said sheet by said clamping devices while maintaining the pressed state; bringing said clamping devices back to their original position through the space between said clasper and said female mold; and separating said female mold and said female mold while simultaneously feeding a new decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold by said transport chuck.

5. (currently amended) A foil-decorating injection molding apparatus comprising:
at least a male mold,

a female mold,

a transport chuck for feeding a decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold, and

a clamper for pressing and fastening said sheet on a flat parting surface of said female mold,

wherein:

said transport chuck comprises two clamping devices by which both side edges of said decorative sheet are clamped; and

said clamper comprises a pushing frame that abuts on said parting surface of said female mold via said decorative sheet when said decorative sheet is pressed and fastened, and at least one connecting member connected to said pushing frame, and

wherein:

said clamper is formed in such a shape that, when said pushing frame is in abutment with said parting surface of said female mold, a space remains between said connecting member and said parting surface in which said clamping devices can pass through.

6. (currently amended) A foil-decorating injection molding apparatus comprising:

a male mold,

a female mold, and

a clamper for pressing and fastening a decorative sheet on a flat parting surface of said female mold,

wherein:

said clamper comprises a pushing frame that abuts on said parting surface of said female mold via said decorative sheet, and at least one connecting member connecting said pushing frame and means of driving said pushing frame,

said clamper is formed in such a shape that, when said pushing frame is in abutment with said parting surface of said female mold, there is established a space between said connecting member and said parting surface;

said apparatus further comprising means for feeding said decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold prior to abutment of said pushing frame with said parting surface, while grasping both side edges of said decorative sheet and for releasing grasp of said decorative sheet while said clamper maintains the pressed state of said decorative sheet and returning back to an original position through the space between said clamper and said female mold.